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NEBHANDS Nebraska Behavioral Health Integration Project Semi-Annual program progress report

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NEBHANDS
Nebraska Behavioral Health Integration Project
Semi-Annual program progress report

1. Grant Number 90EJ00110/02

2. Period Covered by Report: October 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004

3. Major Activities and Accomplishments During this Period:

Highlights of major accomplishments during this period:

- Year two sub-awards were awarded to 65 different organizations totaling approximately \$500,000. Attachment A provides a list of second year sub-awardees including the name and location of each, type of organization, and description of project, as well as more detailed information. Attachment B lists some of the major accomplishments from each of the second-year sub-awardees.
- A number of open technical assistance workshops were held for sub-awardees during the period (see Attachment C for information on specific workshops). Attachment D provides a list of technical assistance workshop registrants.
- Stakeholders met in October to discuss the integration of the behavioral health system into the faith community. See Attachment E for a list of stakeholder members along with the meeting agenda and notes.
- NEBHANDS hosted a meeting March 22nd with Jennifer Sullivan, a representative from the White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, as well as with state officials from the Governor's Office and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Also in attendance were NEBHANDS sub-awardees and Nancy Long from the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII Office in Kansas City (see Attachment F for meeting summary).
- On February 25th, NEBHANDS hosted Charles Roller from Dare Mighty Things who conducted a site visit of the project on behalf of the National Resource Center (see Attachment G for the completed site visit survey).
- NEBHANDS partner Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska presented at an open theology discussion group at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on March 25th entitled "The Blurred Lines Between Church and State". (see Attachment H).
- NEBHANDS partner Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska established and launched an Ecumenical Lending Library with resources available on-line to sub-awardees, faith communities, and anyone in Nebraska interested in behavioral health issues (see Attachment I for brochure).
- The NEBHANDS Evaluation Committee continued the process of evaluating grant activities, including selecting subaward organizations for case studies, collection of information about subaward groups and effectiveness of technical assistance. (see Attachment J for Evaluation Committee materials and summary of activities).
- The Executive Committee continued to meet monthly as an advisory group to NEBHANDS, and to plan for sustainability of subaward groups in Nebraska. (see Attachment K for Executive Committee materials).
- Tom Harvey (Sr. Vice President, Member Services, Alliance for Children and Families, Milwaukee, Wisconsin – Mr. Harvey was a speaker at the Nebhands Kick-Off

Conference) facilitated a meeting of the Executive Committee on January 22nd to develop a strategic plan for sustainability of NEBHANDS project activities (see Attachment L for meeting minutes and pictures).

- The NEBHANDS Integration Committee worked on developing peer-support networks and including them in Nebraska's behavioral health reform effort (see Attachment M for Integration Committee materials).
- The NEBHANDS Policy committee focused on structural impediments to FBO and CBO integration into the behavioral health system. (See Attachment N for a summary of activities).
- The NEBHANDS Information and Referral Committee continued to work to develop a resource database for faith and community-based organizations (see Attachment O for brochure).
- The NEBHANDS Assistance Committee began the planning process to select year three sub-awardees.
- NEBHANDS conducted a number of dissemination activities during the period, including sending informational e-mails to Nebraska policymakers and organizations, as well as participating in the planning for the Project Relate media campaign (see Attachment P for these materials). In addition, many sub-awardees received coverage from local newspapers and other media outlets.
- The NEBHANDS website was improved to allow sub-awardees and other interested parties improved access to information about the project (see Attachment Q for these materials).
- Several sub-awardees hosted NEBHANDS sponsored technical assistance in their communities during this period (see Attachment R for information about sub-awardee conferences).
- The project continued to track expenditures and cost sharing requirements. The Financial Report is included in Attachment S.

The three project objectives are listed below along with the activities defined in the grant. The period in which the activity is scheduled is listed next to the activity in parentheses. A narrative follows each activity as an update.

Objective 1. Enhance and Expand Capacity of Nebraska's CBOs and FBOs to provide a range of supportive behavioral health services.

Activities associated with Objective

I. Provide Technical Assistance

- a) Provide technical assistance open to all (Yr 1 – Qtr 3 thru Yr 2 – Qtr 2)

This objective was successfully completed. A number of technical assistance activities were conducted throughout the period, including a substance abuse video conference in October, a grant-writing seminar in December, a cost-sharing training in February, and a faith-based wraparound training in March, as well as the first four workshops of the Points of Light Foundation Volunteer Management series. See Attachment C for more information about technical assistance trainings offered. Sub-awardees hosted additional technical assistance activities. See Attachment R for information about these activities. Currently, a

schedule of technical assistance opportunities for Year 3 is being developed in order to meet needs identified by sub-awardees and the NEBHANDS project.

2. *Distribute Sub-awards*

a) Promote sub-award process and availability (Yr 1 – Qtr 3 thru Year 2 – Qtr 2)
This objective was successfully completed within the timeline set by the Executive Committee. Funding applications for third-year sub-awardees will be received by May 15. Availability of funds for open competition will be determined by the Assistance Committee after that date.

b) Grant Monetary & Technical Assistance Awards (Yr 1 – Qtr 4 and throughout grant)
This objective is progressing within the timeline set by the Executive Committee. Sixty-five FBO's and CBO's received a total of approximately \$500,000 in Year 2 sub-awards along with technical assistance. Fourteen FBO's and CBO's were chosen to receive technical assistance training to strengthen infrastructure prior to receiving funds, in addition to the technical assistance training provided to all sub-awardees. A complete listing of Year 2 sub-award groups as well as agencies receiving technical assistance training can be found in Attachment A.

3. *Work with Sub-Award Communities*

a) Implementation of Initiatives (Yr 1 – Qtr 4 and throughout grant)
This objective is in progress. This work began following the identification of sub-award groups and the communities they are in during year one, and continues throughout the grant life.

b) Identify and Provide Technical Assistance (Yr 1 – Qtr 4 and throughout grant)
This objective is in progress. Staff and NEBHANDS partners provided tailored technical assistance to sub-awardees as requested or needed. Below are two examples of the type of individualized assistance activities provided:
i. NEBHANDS provided assistance to OASIS Inc. in developing a specific business plan to describe their activities to funders and other interested parties.
ii. NEBHANDS provided technical assistance to Abide Ministries to help them clarify and simplify their vision and mission statements and develop a faith-sensitive curriculum to teach member para-churches these skills.

Objective 2: Develop and disseminate a plan for an integrated behavioral health System of Care at the state and community levels.

Activities Associated with Objective

1. *Convene Stakeholder Advisory Group* (Yr 1 – Qtr 2 and throughout grant)

This objective is progressing within the timeline set by the Executive Committee. The third meeting of stakeholders was October 23, 2003. The next scheduled meeting is June 8, 2004 (see Attachment E).

2. *Convene Executive Committee* (Yr 1 – Qtr 1 and throughout grant)

This objective is in progress. The Executive Committee continued to meet monthly during the reporting period to guide the overall development of the project (see Attachment K). Tom Harvey led the January committee meeting which focused on

strategic long-term planning for sustaining NEBHANDS sub-awardee groups (see Attachment L).

2. *Convene Subcommittees*

c) Determine plan and make recommendations (Yr 2)

This objective is in progress. Subcommittees continued to meet during this grant period. (See Attachments J-O)

d) Promote, implement, and monitor improvements (Yr 3)

This objective will be successfully completed within the timeline set. It is an ongoing activity

Community Guides

e) Research and collect materials (Yr 1 – Qtr 3 thru Yr 2)

This objective is in progress. Materials were collected for the community guides during the third quarter of the first year. Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska has been conducting listening sessions with communities during this period in order to gather input and feedback about guide content. (See Attachment T)

f) Promote and disseminate (Yr 3)

This objective will be successfully completed in Year 3. The promotion and dissemination of community guides is projected to take place during Year 3.

g) Publish (Year 3 - Qtr 1)

This objective will be successfully completed in Year 3. A draft monograph concerning the integration of faith-based and community-based organizations into the behavioral health system has been completed during this period. The revision and publication of the monograph will be the focus of Year 3.

Objective 3: Evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

Activities Associated with Objective

a) Implement evaluation plan (Yr 1 – Qtr 3 thru Yr 3 – Qtr 2)

This objective will be successfully completed. Evaluation Committee members began to conduct in-depth qualitative case studies during this period, with evaluation work expected to continue through the rest of Year 2. Surveys of sub-awardees and of technical assistance workshop continued through the period.

b) Release preliminary findings (Yr 2 –Qtr 4)

This objective will be successfully completed. Preliminary findings from the case studies are expected to be release during the latter half of Year 2.

c) Release final report (Yr 3 – Qtr 4)

This objective will be successfully completed. The final report from the Evaluation Committee is expected to be released by the end of Year 3.

4. Problems:

- The selection of 65 sub-awardees stretches staff resources; however, the project has been able to provide adequate assistance to the sub-awardees to this point.
- Federal changes requiring more funds for sub-awards created challenges; however, the project was able to modify the budget and shift more funding to sub-awards.
- Providing more resources for sub-awards resulted in a less ambitious program evaluation effort to determine what types of technical assistance and funding are most helpful for particular types of organizations; however, we have moved forward on the program evaluation with the available resources.
- Working to sustain the sub-awardees and efforts to assist sub-awardees past the grant period has been a challenge. We have been working with our local, state and federal partners on this issue.

5. Significant Findings and Events:

NEBHANDS conducted several technical assistance workshops across the state during the six-month period. In addition, a number of sub-awardees held their own workshops to supplement the NEHBANDS presentations.

6. Dissemination Activities:

Dissemination activities continued during the reporting period utilizing a variety of methods (see Attachment P).

- A weekly e-mail report was distributed to over 900 public and private organizations throughout the state, which included information about NEBHANDS technical assistance trainings as well as grant funding opportunities.
- The NEBHANDS website was redesigned during the period to more efficiently relay information to sub-awardees and interested stakeholders.
- Nearly 2,000 “hits” have been generated on the web site during this period, indicating that the website is serving as a consistent source of project information (See Attachment Q)

7. Other Activities:

Project activities have been discussed under the above headings.

8. Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

Executive Committee and subcommittees will meet throughout reporting period

April:

- *Volunteer Management Series – Supervising Volunteers*
 - Open TA workshop broadcast to four sites across Nebraska
- *Family Strengths from a Global Perspective*
 - Open TA workshop broadcast to five sites across Nebraska featuring John DeFrain, Ph.D., a family educator and therapist specializing in family strengths

May:

- *Meeting for All Sub-Award Groups*
 - Technical Assistance Material and curricula that can be used by each group for staff or volunteer orientation or continuing education will be distributed and reviewed
- *Grant Writing Seminar*
 - Co-sponsored by the Nebraska Continuum of Services, Inc (a sub-award group), NEBHANDS, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (SAMHSA)
- *“Celebrate Public Service”*
 - Volunteer Fair, luncheon, and workshop series co-sponsored by NEBHANDS and the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Department of Public Administration
- *Volunteer Management Series – Working with Volunteers from low income and minority communities*
 - Open TA workshop broadcast to four sites across Nebraska
- Applications from current sub-award groups due for year three funding

June:

- *Stakeholder Meeting*
 - Tour of Omaha Sub-award Groups and focus on system sustainability
- *“In Our Own Voice” – The consumer experience of mental illness*
 - Open TA workshop broadcast to five sites across Nebraska
- *Assistance Committee Meeting*
 - Plan finalized for distribution of third year sub-award funds
 -

July:

- *Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Conference*
 - Technical Assistance Workshop focusing on increasing competence of clergy, mental health professionals, and natural helpers in disaster mental health service delivery. Co-sponsored by NEBHANDS, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, BryanLGH Medical Center, and Prairieland Addiction Transfer Center

August:

- *Bookkeeping for Non-profits*
 - Open TA workshop broadcast to five sites across Nebraska

September:

- *“Building Bridges to Safety: Faith Community Responses to Domestic Violence”*
 - Sponsored by NEBHANDS, Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition and Family Violence Council of Lincoln/Lancaster County

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Attachments:

- A. Year 2 Sub-awardees
- B. Sub-awardee success stories
- C. Information on technical assistance workshops
- D. Technical assistance workshop registrants
- E. NEBHANDS Stakeholder Committee
- F. Meeting with White House Office of Faith-Based Initiatives
- G. Dare Mighty Things visit
- H. "Blurred Lines Between Church and State" discussion
- I. Ecumenical Lending Library
- J. NEBHANDS Evaluation Committee
- K. NEBHANDS Executive Committee
- L. NEBHANDS Executive Committee meeting with Tom Harvey
- M. NEBHANDS Integration Committee
- N. NEBHANDS Policy Committee
- O. NEBHANDS Information and Referral Committee
- P. Dissemination materials
- Q. NEBHANDS Website and Analysis
- R. NEBHANDS sub-awardee hosted technical assistance
- S. Financial Report
- T. Listening Sessions